

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175625

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PERU: GOVERNMENT EXPROPRIATES MARCONA

CITING NONPAYMENT OF TAXES AS ITS JUSTIFICATION, THE MILITARY JUNTA ANNOUNCED ON THE NIGHT OF JULY 24 THE EXPROPRIATION OF THE US-OWNED MARCONA MINING COMPANY. THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT THIS HASTY AND ILL-ADVISED DECISION RAISES SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE GOP'S INTENTIONS IN FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. TAKEN ON THE EVE OF PERU'S INDEPENDENCE DAY, THE ACTION IS POSSIBLY ANOTHER IMPETUOUS MOVE BY PRESIDENT VELASCO WHICH HE CAN NOW HAIL AS A REVOLUTIONARY ACCOMPLISHMENT. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LIMA 5979, 7/24 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) LIMA 5983 7/24.)

2. SPANISH SAHARA

A. SPAIN: THE ALGERIAN POINT OF VIEW

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DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR STABLER, THE ALGERIAN

AMBASSADOR STATED THAT THE GOA'S POSITION ON THE SAHARA HAD BEEN FROM THE BEGINNING AND STILL IS THAT OF FULL SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE SAHARAN PEOPLE. THE AMBASSADOR:

--NOTED THAT AS RECENTLY AS 1973, ALGERIA, MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA HAD SIGNED A COMMUNIQUE SUPPORTING THIS PRINCIPLE;

--STRESSED THAT ALGERIA HAS NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN THE SAHARA AND CONSIDERS THAT ITS BORDER PROBLEMS WITH MOROCCO ARE SETTLED;

--IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO BY CONTRASTING THE TWO POSITIONS ON SELF-DETERMINATION.

THE AMBASSADOR ALSO CRITICIZED THE GOS'S FAILURE TO DO ANYTHING UNTIL RECENTLY TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR SELF-DETERMINATION. HE STATED THAT THE GOS WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO PULL OUT BEFORE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR A UN REFERENDUM IN THE SAHARA.

B. MOROCCO: ANOTHER ALGERIAN HEARD FROM

THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD AMBASSADOR NEUMANN THAT, FOLLOWING THE BOUTEFILKA VISIT, THERE WAS NO PROBLEM WITH MOROCCO AND IF "MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO REALLY HAVE AN AGREEMENT" ON THE SAHARA, ALGERIA WOULD NOT DISRUPT IT. HE ALSO AGREED THAT THE SPANISH POSITION WAS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN, PERHAPS DUE TO THE PROMINENT ROLE BEING PLAYED BY AN AGING FRANCO.

C. THE MAURITANIA/MOROCCO CONNECTION

EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT REPORTS THAT IN CONTRAST TO REPEATED PUBLIC PROTESTATIONS OF COMPLETE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO IS FAR FROM SETTLED. MOREOVER, IN THE PARTICULAR CASE OF THE SAHARA, THE PERSISTENCE OF VAGUE GENERALITIES ON ITS PARTITION SUGGEST

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STRONGLY THAT THERE IS NO AGREED MAP. THE EMBASSY CAUTIONS THAT THE "TOTAL SOLIDARITY" OF THE NEWLY RECONCILED BROTHERS IS BOUND TO RUN INTO SOME VERY ROCKY STRETCHES ALONG THE DESERT TRACK OF A LIBERATED SAHARA AND THE US WOULD BE WISE TO KEEP WELL OUT OF THE INEVITABLE SIBLING SQUABBLES. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 5154, (CONFIDENTIAL) RABAT 3589 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) NOUAKCHOTT 1479, 7/24.) KISSINGER

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